

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. In the office action (OA) mailed 03/25/2004, claims 1-20 were considered. The OA allowed claims 1-8, rejected claims 9-18 and objected to claims 19-20. In particular, claims 9-11 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,160,973 to Berlin, Jr. ("Berlin"), and claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berlin. Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claims 9-17 without prejudice to assert these claims in a continuation application.

Further, Applicant has rewritten claims 18 and 19 in independent form to include all of the limitations of intervening claims 15-17 and 15-16, respectively. This also corrects the self-dependency of claim 18, which was the basis of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of that claim. Claim 20 depends from amended claim 19 and, hence, does not need to be rewritten.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8 and 18-20 are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that this application be passed to issuance. If, however, the Examiner believes that any issue remains requiring clarification, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF GLENN R. SMITH

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By:


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